

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01566 100704Z
ACTION NEA-10

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DAMASCUS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BAGB, BTRA, US, IZ, PINR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF IRAQI STATE ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO VISIT US.

1. DR. HUSSEIN AL-ANI, PRESIDENT OF IRAQI STATE ORGANIZATION
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PLANS A PRIVATE VISIT TO US
FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH ARRIVING O/A SEPTEMBER 25. THOUGH HE WILL
BE VISITING PRIMARILY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, HE WOULD LIKE TO
MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF USDA/FAS, AMERICAN SOYBEAN
ASSOCIATION (ASA) AND US FEED GRAINS COUNCIL (USFGC) TO DISCUSS
PROSPECTIVE IRAQI PURCHASES OF SOYBEANS, SOYBEAN MEAL AND YELLOW
CORN. USINT HAS PROVIDED HIM WITH FOLLOWING CONTACT LIST:
JIMMY MINYARD, DALE DOUGLAS AND JAMES LANKFORD OF USDA/FAS,
DR. KEITH SMITH AT ASA, AND MR. WALTER GRAHAM OF USFGC. HE ALSO
PLANS TO CONTACT DE KALB AND SOME OTHER US SEED COMPANIES WITH WHICH
HE HAS ALREADY CORRESPONDED. HE PREFERS TO ARRANGE SCHEDULE
HIMSELF AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

2. DR. AL-ANI TOLD COMMATT THAT SOAD HAD JUST PURCHASED
10,000 TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL FROM US AND WOULD IN NEXT
FEW WEEKS BE IN THE MARKET FOR ANOTHER 50,000 TONS AS WELL
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AS 50,000 TONS OF YELLOW CORN. SOAD UCRRENTLY HAS TENDER
CALL PENDING FOR 5,000 TONS OF FROZEN CHICKENS FOR
DELIVERY BEFORE THE END OF 1977 AND WILL SHORTLY ISSUE
SECOND TENDER CALL FOR 18,000 TONS FOR DELIVERY IN 1978.

3. COMMENT: AS PRESIDENT OF STATE ORGANIZATION OF
AGRICULTURE, DR. AL-ANI IS THE THIRD-RANKING OFFICIAL IN

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND SUPERVISES THE GENERAL POULTRY COMPANIES, THE ANIMAL FEED COMPANY, AND SEVERAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH REPRESENT LARGE POTENTIAL MARKET FOR US SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND PRODUCTS. THE ASA AS WELL AS SOME OTHER US ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PREVIOUSLY OFFERED TO SPONSOR A VISIT BY HIM TO THE US BUT HE HAS DECLINED SAYING THAT HE COULD ONLY TRAVEL AT HIS OWN OR GOI'S EXPENSE BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION.

4. DR. AL-ANI RECEIVED HIS PH.D. FROM KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, AND HAS AN AMERICAN WIFE. BECAUSE OF THESE STRONG TIES TO THE US, HE IS TO SOME DEGREE VULNERABLE IN THE VAGARIES OF THE IRAQI BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM, EVEN THOUGH HE SUPPOSEDLY HAS CLOSE TIES TO IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR. REPORTEDLY HE ENCOUNTERED SOME CRITICISM BECAUSE OF HIS DECISION TO AWARD 40 MILLION DOLLAR FROZEN CHICKEN CONTRACT TO THE NATIONAL BROILER MARKETING ASSOCIATION IN 1976. DR. AL-ANI HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN RE-INSTATED IN HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF SOAD AFTER ONE YEAR'S EXILE AS HEAD OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION FOR LAND REFORM AND SOIL RECLAMATION BECAUSE OF A DESAGREEMENT WITH THE PREVIOUS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

5. USINT REQUESTS USDA/FAS NTOIFY ASA, USFGC, AND DE KALB OF DR. AL-ANI'S IMPENDING VISIT. USDA/FAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD OFFER TO ASSIST DR. AL-ANI IN WHATEVER WAY HE WANTS IN ARRANGING HIS SCHEDULE AND HE SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE COURTESY MERITED BY HIS RANK AND HIS IMPORTANCE TO US AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO IRAQ. HOWEVER, HOSTS SHOULD ENSURE HE ALWAYS HAS OPTION POLITELY TO REFUSE ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY MAY WANT TO ARRANGE FOR HIM--E.G. CALLS ON RANKING OFFICERS OF USDA, SUBSIDIZED TRIPS TO VISIT ASA, ETC. DR. AL-ANI OBVIOUSLY IS BEST JUDGE OF WHAT MAY BE EMBARRASSING TO HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO IRAQ. MACK

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